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Copies Mailed: 113



Traditional Trades Definitives

See page 20

Thanks from John Arn

Our previous Editor of *The Corgi Times*, John Arn, was presented with a *Corgi* statue from Harry Machum at BNAPEX 2001 in Ottawa.

John writes...

"I want to again thank you and the Study Group for the sand cast Corgi. It is extremely well done and now occupies a prominent spot in our family room. It is a great reminder of nine very pleasant years with the *Corgi Times*.

Also, I need to report that the resident Corgi - "Boots" - will not have anything to do with this interloper."

John is currently very active preparing for this year's BNAPEX show, being held September 26-29 in Spokane, Washington. If you have not yet registered for this show, please do so now (I recently received a mailing from John and his committee giving even more details about the show — I trust that you did too!). ♣

47¢ Flag Booklet of 30

Yet again, we need to report a new variety on this booklet! As we reported in the last issue of the *Corgi Times*, a *fourth* printing exists with an XpressPost advertisement on the back cover. We noted then that the *field* stock was known (these are *sealed* covers). **We can now report that unsealed copies exist — but, with the same barcode.** We would have expected the "philatelic" barcode to apply, but it doesn't. ♣

New Auction Column

Member Robert Haslewood has volunteered to follow in Dean Mario's shoes and prepare a *Market Report* column for *The Corgi Times*.

From 1990 to 1996, Robert wrote a column called "The Price is Right" for the *Yule Log*, the journal of the Christmas Philatelic Club. Like Dean's column, it reported on auction realizations but it dealt with Christmas oriented philatelic items. Robert has also written a column called "Cinema Canadiana" for *The Canadian Connection* of the Canadiana Study Unit. Presently Robert writes "Bob Column" for the *Yule Log* on various worldwide Christmas items.

Robert receives most of the Canadian auction catalogues issued each year so he is the perfect person for this column.

We look forward to reading his articles, starting later this summer. ♣

Postage Rates Rise to 48¢

Canadian postal rates rose from 47¢ to 48¢ on January 14th. It had been just over a year since the last rate increase. See page 64 for more details. ♣



Who are We?

We are the Elizabethan II Study Group under the auspices of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) — *The Society for Canadian Philately*.

Our journal, the *Corgi Times* is published 6 times a year.

With the exception of the 1967–73 *Centennial Definitives*, we study *all* aspects of Canadian philately during the Elizabethan era.

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Canada Post News

Do we like more stamps being issued by Canada? Sure we do! Every new issue is a part of the Elizabethan era — right up our alley. Here is what Canada Post is up to these days...

UPC Barcodes on stamp panes

As noted in the previous issue of the *Corgi Times*, the low-value Traditional Trades definitives are beginning to show up with barcodes on either the top or bottom selvedge of the pane. The 1¢, 5¢, and 10¢ values have all been seen so far. According to Canada Post, the 25¢ should also exist this way but has not yet been spotted. By the time you read this it will probably have been seen.



Barcode from top of 10¢ Trades pane

NHL All stars

In the last issue of *Corgi Times* it was noted that two more *living* NHL All-stars will appear on stamps to be released January 12. In fact, there are *four* living people being portrayed: Guy Lafleur, Phil Esposito and Glenn Hall and Leonard 'Red' Kelly. Thanks to member Paul Tissington for pointing this out.

The opening ceremonies of the Toronto Maple Leafs–Montreal Canadiens hockey game on January 12th featured the first day release of these stamps. All four living players featured on a stamp and the daughter of Tim Horton were on hand for the unveiling of the stamps at center ice.

Images in Details

Canada Post's *Details* magazine that provides images and details on all new stamp issues does not do justice to some of the actual stamps.

The January to March 2002 *Details* features the Year of the Horse on the front cover. The actual stamp is much more vibrant in colour than the illustrated image. As well, the Olympic Winter Games stamps illustrated on page 18–19 of this same issue of *Details* do not show off the Olympic rings that exist on the issued stamps. You may need to hold the stamps at an angle to see the rings. ♣



Corgi Times

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Study Group Business

New Member

Welcome to new members:

- < Peter R. MacDonald of Ottawa, ON
- < Loren C. Owings, Mendocino, CA

Change of Address

Robert Smith (formerly of Botswana) has moved to Halifax, Nova Scotia — welcome home!

E-mail additions/corrections

Please add:

Peter MacDonald peter@nutshellmusic.com

Please change:

Harry Voss harryvoss@shaw.ca

Planning Calendar

This is a listing of major exhibitions and bourses with a large content of both Canadian Exhibits and Canadian dealers. Minimum listing criteria: two day event; 1000 page exhibition; 18 dealer bourse with 50% offering Canadian material.

The goal is to list events far in advance to encourage either exhibiting or attendance and preferably both.

2002

Sep 26–29: **APPLE HARVEST 2002**, hosting **BNAPEX 2002**. Spokane, Washington. Spokane Convention Center. Info: John D. Arn; Tel: 509-467-5521; Fax: 509-467-2282; E-mail: JohnDArn@aol.com.

What is Your Opinion?

When is a booklet *not* a booklet? According to the *Linn's World Stamp Almanac*, a booklet is defined as “a unit of one or more small panes or blocks (known as booklet panes) glued, stitched or stapled together between thin card covers to form a convenient unit for mailers to purchase and carry.”

This definition was fine when water-activated stamps were involved. How about with self-adhesive stamps? In Canada, several self-adhesive issues have been given “booklet” status even though they do not fall into the definition given above. Some issues, such as the 47¢ and 48¢ Flag stamps consist of one piece of paper folded once or twice giving the appearance of a booklet. Other issues, such as the medium-value Wildlife and now the medium-value Trades stamps are called “panels” by Canada Post.

What do you think? Are the unfolded “panes” of stamps just a small size of “sheet/pane” or are they a “booklet” because they are in a “convenient unit for mailers to purchase and carry”? ♣

Elizabethan II Market Place

Classified listings in the Market Place are \$1.00 for 25 words. Additional words are 5¢ each. Camera ready display ads (preferably 300dpi, black and white TIFF scans) pertaining primarily to the Elizabethan era will be accepted at the following rates: 1/8 page \$5.00; 1/4 page \$8.00; 1/2 page \$15.00 and a full page at \$30.00. 25% discount for four consecutive insertions of the same ad. Full payment must accompany ad. Payment in Canadian funds to: Elizabethan II Study Group. Mail to Editor: Robin Harris, 2708 Ferguson Avenue, Saskatoon, SK S7J 1N9, Canada. ♣

Quiz

How well do you look at the details in each stamp design? Can you identify what Canadian Elizabethan stamp this detail belongs to? ♣



Last issue's Quiz answer: the detail belongs to Scott# 684, the 20¢ Communications “Olympic” stamp issued February 6, 1976.

Canada Post 2001 Stamp Program (May–December)

This will be the last time we include the 2001 listing


Shaded entries are new/changed from last issue

as of the January 2002 *Scott Stamp Monthly* (Jan 8/02)

Issued	Description	Scott#
May 11	Tourist Attractions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 60¢, 5 designs in self-adhesive booklet pane of 5 (two different barcodes on cover) < \$1.05, 5 designs in self-adhesive booklet pane of 5 (two different barcodes on cover) 	1903a–e 1904a–e
May 16	47¢ 1,700th anniversary of the Armenian Apostolic Church, pane of 16	1905
Jun 1	47¢ Royal Military College 125th anniversary, pane of 16	1906
Jun 25	47¢ International Amateur Athletic Federation World Championships, 2 designs in pane of 16	1907–8
Jul 1	47¢ Pierre Elliott Trudeau <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < pane of 16 < souvenir sheet pane of 4 	1909 1909a
Jul ?	47¢ Flag over Inukshuk Sculpture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < self-adhesive booklet pane of 10 — reprint with 'Prepaid cards' on back cover (field stock only) < self-adhesive booklet pane of 30 — reprint with 'Prepaid cards' on back cover (field stock only) 	
Aug 1	47¢ Roses, 4 designs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < water-activated souvenir sheet of 4 < self-adhesive pane of 12 (two different barcodes on cover) 	1910a–d 1911–14
Aug 3	47¢ The Great Peace of Montreal 300th anniversary, pane of 16	1915
Aug 24	\$1.05 Masterpieces of Canadian Art, pane of 16	1916
Sep ?	47¢ Flag over Inukshuk Sculpture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < self-adhesive booklet pane of 30 — reprint with 'Moving' on back cover (philatelic stock) 	
Sep 19	47¢ Shriners, pane of 16	1917
Sep 21	(47¢) Greeting Stamps, booklet of 5 non-denominated designs (two different barcodes on cover)	1918a–e
Sep 28	47¢ Theatres, 2 designs in pane of 16	1919–20
Sep 28	(\$2) Hockey postal card featuring a non-denominated Wayne Gretzky stamp from the 2000 NHL All-stars issue	
Oct 1	47¢ Hot-Air Balloons, 4 designs in booklet of 8 (two different barcodes on cover)	1921a–d
Nov 1	Christmas Lights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 47¢ sheet and booklet of 10 (two different barcodes on cover) < 60¢ sheet and booklet of 6 (two different barcodes on cover) < \$1.05 sheet and booklet of 6 (two different barcodes on cover) 	1922 1923 1924
Nov ?	25¢ Leatherworking Traditional Trades definitive — reprint by CBN (original by AP)	
Nov ?	47¢ Flag over Inukshuk Sculpture <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < self-adhesive booklet pane of 30 — reprint with 'Xpresspost' on back cover (sealed and unsealed available) 	
Nov 8	47¢ YMCA 150th anniversary	1925
Nov 11	47¢ 75th anniversary of the Royal Canadian Legion	with UPC barcode in LR selvage 1926
Nov 15	Traditional Trades definitives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 1¢ Bookbinding < 5¢ Weaving < 10¢ Artistic woodworking 	reprinted with UPC barcode on top or bottom selvage:
Dec 3	Roses stationery (four non-denominated envelopes)	
Dec 15	Traditional Trades definitive <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 25¢ Leatherworking 	reprinted with UPC barcode on top or bottom selvage:
Dec ?	2¢ Decorative Ironwork Traditional Trades definitive — reprint by CBN (original by AP), without barcode	

Canada Post 2002 Stamp Program

Issue dates are subject to change by Canada Post.

Issued	Description	Scott#
Jan 2	48¢ Queen Elizabeth II — Golden Jubilee issue, pane of 16	
Jan 2	Rate change definitives: 65¢, 77¢, \$1.25 are medium-size <i>Traditional Trades</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building (booklet of 30) (two different barcodes on cover) < 48¢ Stylized Maple Leaf, coil of 100 < 65¢ Jewellery, coil of 50 and booklet of 6 < 77¢ Basket weaving, coil of 50 < \$1.25 Sculpture, coil of 50 and booklet of 6 	
Jan 3	Year of the Horse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < 48¢, pane of 25 (individual stamp is octagonal shaped) < \$1.25 souvenir sheet (uncut press sheet of 12 also available) 	
Jan 12	48¢ National Hockey League, 6 designs in pane of 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < All-Stars: Tim Horton, Guy Lafleur, Howie Morenz, Glenn Hall, Red Kelly, Phil Esposito 	
Jan 25	48¢ 2002 Olympic Winter Games (block of 4 designs) in pane of 16	
Feb 1	48¢ Canadian Governors General, pane of 16	
Feb 15	Birds of Canada - envelopes (non-denominated domestic use only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> < (48¢) The American Goldfinch (size 8) < (48¢) Scarlet Tanager (size 10) 	
Feb 28	48¢ University of Manitoba 125th anniversary, booklet of 8	
Mar 22	\$1.25 Masterpieces of Canadian Art, pane of 16	
Mar 27	48¢ Laval University 150th anniversary, booklet of 8	
Apr 30	48¢ Toronto's Trinity College (150th anniversary)	
May 3	48¢ Tulips (booklet of 12)	
May 19	48¢ Coral (set of 4 in souvenir sheet; joint issue with Hong Kong, China)	
May 27	48¢ Saint Mary's University in Halifax (200th anniversary)	
Jun 1	65¢, \$1.25 Tourist Attractions (booklets of 5 of each value)	
Jun 10	48¢ Canadian Sculptors: Leo Mol and Charles Daudelin (2 stamps)	
Jul 5	48¢ Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association 100th anniversary	
Jul 23	48¢ World Youth Day	
Aug 30	48¢ Tulips (souvenir sheet)	
Sep 4	48¢ Public Services International World Congress	
Oct 1	48¢ Stamp Collecting Month	
Oct 4	48¢ World Teacher's Day	
Oct 31	48¢ Communications technology (2 stamps: Guglielmo Marconi and 100th anniversary of the Pacific Globe)	
Nov 4	48¢, 65¢, \$1.25 Christmas: Aboriginal Art	

1954 QE II Wilding Plates – Date of Issue

by: Leopold Beaudet

With the KG VI Mufti issue of 1937, Canadian Bank Note Co. (CBN) began placing plate inscriptions above the top or below the bottom two stamps in the four corners of the sheet. This made it convenient for collectors to acquire and mount matched sets of plate blocks. However, specific plate numbers and positions were not available through the Philatelic Service so collectors had to hunt through post offices to find new plate numbers and missing corners.

Because of the convenient collecting format and the thrill of the hunt, plate block collecting became very popular in the 1940s. This increasing popularity became an irritant to postal clerks because collectors swept up the plate blocks, leaving the postal clerks with a pile of full panes minus four stamps and an accounting headache.

In March 1957, the accounting agonies of the postal clerks finally won out over the passions of plate block collectors. The Post Office decided to eliminate plate number inscriptions [1, 2]. Plate block collectors were furious. The Post Office compromised by re-introducing plate inscriptions starting with the British Colombia Centennial commemorative of 8 May 1958, but only on philatelic stock. Post office stock continued to be issued without inscriptions. The Post Office accomplished this by asking CBN to move the inscriptions close to the edges of the sheet, and trimming post office sheets such that the inscriptions were cut off.

As a byproduct of the compromise, the Philatelic Service began stocking all positions of all plate numbers, and making them available to all collectors. While this compromise may have seemed a god-send to frustrated plate block collectors, I suspect it ultimately led to a decline in the popularity of this form of collecting because it eliminated the thrill of the hunt. It also eliminated the relative scarcity of some positions over others. Collectors could now place a standing order with the Philatelic Service for matched sets of each new plate number, and then sit back and wait for the Philatelic Service to send each plate as it came out.

Which, in a long-winded way, leads me to the subject of this article. Lot 552 at the Ian Kimmerly Auction Sale #111 on 6 November 2001 was a “collector’s lifetime accumulation” of Wilding material. The collector apparently had a standing order with the Philatelic Service for plate blocks. The lot in the Kimmerly sale had the plate blocks. It also had the paperwork sent to the collector by the Philatelic Service with each shipment. The paperwork identifies the plate numbers and the date of shipment. Thus it provides a guide as to the date of release of the later plate blocks of the Wilding definitives, something that, to my knowledge, has never been well documented, if at all.

The table below lists all the plate numbers issued after the decision was made to re-introduce plate blocks. For those plate numbers that appear on the standing order forms, the date on the form, which is the date that the Philatelic Service filled the order, is listed in the table. Unfortunately, the paperwork for some of the 2¢ plates was missing the year and a few plates were missing altogether (indicated by question marks in the table). Can anyone provide the missing dates?

1¢	Plate 9 - ????	2¢	Plate 11 - ????	4¢	Plate 15 - ????	5¢	Plate 15 - ????
	Plate 10 - Not used		Plate 12 - ????		Plate 16 - ????		Plate 16 - ????
	Plate 11 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 13 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 17 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 17 - 18 Mar 1960
	Plate 12 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 14 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 18 - 8 Nov 1960		Plate 18 - ????
			Plate 15 - 18 Mar 1960		Plate 19 - ????		Plate 19 - ????
			Plate 16 - 8 Nov 1960				
			Plate 17 - 25 Jan ????				
			Plate 18 - 25 Jan ????				
			Plate 19 - 15 May 1962				
			Plate 20 - ????				



2¢ Wilding, Plate #11:
Inscription at edge of pane

1. **Canada’s Postage Stamps**, Douglas and Mary Patrick, McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1964. The elimination of plate numbers is described on pp. 109-110.
2. **The Charlton Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Postage Stamps**, Vol. 3, Elizabethan Era, George Papaspyrou, Editor, Ron Richards, Contributing Editor, The Charlton Press, 1982. The elimination of plate numbers is described on p. 27.

Fluorescent Varieties of the 2¢ Wilding Miniature Pane

by: Robert J. Elias

Fluorescent varieties of the 2¢ Wilding miniature pane (Scott 338a) seem to have received little attention. They were not reported in Robin Harris' comprehensive study of the Wilding series [1], and have not been listed by Unitrade [2]. However, a variety said to occur on HB (hibrite) paper was included in the most recent edition of Darnell's catalogue [3].

My compilation of data on a large number of stamps from 2¢ Wilding miniature panes provides new information on fluorescent varieties and their relative abundance. This study was based on used stamps (free of gum) with one straight edge or two straight edges on intersecting sides, indicating that they were derived from miniature panes. The stamps were examined under ultraviolet light, and the level of fluorescence was determined by comparison with *fluoreSCALE* [4]. The data are thought to be based on random samples, for a number of reasons: accumulations of stamps were obtained from several sources and at different times (including prior to Darnell's report of fluorescent varieties), cancellations on some stamps indicate that the material originated from all ten provinces, and the relative abundance of varieties did not differ substantially from sample to sample as the total number of stamps (multiples counted as singles) increased to more than 7000.



Varieties	Number of Stamps (total 7106)	Relative Abundance (percent of total)
nonfluorescent	6807	95.8%
very low flecked fluorescence	50	0.7%
medium flecked fluorescence	132	1.9%
high flecked fluorescence	117	0.016

The vast majority of stamps from 2¢ Wilding miniature panes are nonfluorescent. Less than 1% have a very low level of flecked fluorescence. The conspicuously fluorescent stamps fall into two categories, medium and high flecked fluorescence, which together account for 3.5% of stamps. These presumably correspond to the so-called HB variety of Darnell.

Another aspect of rarity should also be considered by those who collect single stamps. Each 2¢ Wilding miniature pane yielded a total of 16 straight-edged stamps, of which there are eight different types: those with two straight edges at the top and left, top and right, bottom and left, and bottom and right (one of each per pane, from the corners), and those with a single straight edge at the top, left, right, and bottom (three of each per pane, from the sides). Thus, only one-sixteenth of all straight-edged stamps are from a particular corner. For example, although 1.6% of stamps have high flecked fluorescence (i.e., 16 per 1000), the probability of finding this variety with straight edges intersecting at the top-left is only 1 in 1000!

[1] D. Robin Harris, 1998. *1952-53 Karsh, 1954-62 Wilding, 1962-66 Cameo Definitives*.

[2] 2001. *2002 Unitrade Specialized Catalogue of Canadian Stamps*.

[3] Lyse Rousseau and Emanuel Darnell, 1999. *Darnell Millennium Stamps of Canada Catalogue*.

[4] Robert J. Elias, 2001. "*fluoreSCALE*": A Classification of Flecked Paper. *Corgi Times*, No. 57 (vol. X, no. 3; Nov.-Dec. 2001), p. 37.

The Most Recent Definitive Series: Handicrafts Stamps

by: Joseph Monteiro

1002-89 Vaudreuil Rue, Hull, Québec, Canada J8X 4E8

On April 29, 1999, Canada Post issued a new definitive series depicting Canadian handicrafts. The eight stamps, 1-cent to 25-cents, in the series depicts the skills of a artistic bookbinder, a ironworker, a glassblower, an oyster grower, a weaver, a quilter, a woodworker and a leather worker.

These stamps were designed by Monique Dufour and Sophie Lafortune with photography by Jean-Pierre Beaudin. They were initially printed by Ashton Potter in panes of 100 on Tullis Russell Coating paper using five colour lithography. The adhesive used on the stamps is PVA gum.

Since the first printing, a second printing occurred in 2001 by Canadian Bank Note. The printing by Canadian Bank Note has occurred more than once. The first one occurred without any barcodes and the second one occurred with barcodes. If this is the only difference, then perhaps most philatelists would not care.



There are, however, other differences which will be the subject of this article. I shall indicate first, the implications of bar coding on the pane. Second, I shall indicate the differences between the two printings of Canadian Bank Note. Third, I shall indicate how the pane was perforated and the type of perforator used.

a) Implications of Bar Coding

Canada Post in its publication *Details* states “Starting with the Royal Canadian Legion issue (November 11, 2001...) all new commemorative stamp releases will carry a UPC barcode on the margin of the full stamp pane.” Canada is not the first country to use barcodes on stamp sheets. A number of other countries for example, New Zealand, Hong Kong, etc. have used barcodes on stamp sheets and other philatelic products. Bar coding products is not a new practice. It is being used on nearly all products that are sold.

There are several reasons why bar coding is used. First, it enables the manufacturer to maintain better control of supply and inventory of products. Second, it enables the retailer to easily monitor how quickly his products are sold and how to stock his shelves with the fastest moving products. Third, it enables manufacturers of bar coding electronic equipment to build up a body of data which enables a considerable degree of research to be done. Fourth, it enables the retailer to electronically log in prices of products quickly thus avoiding costly mistakes that could occur by doing this manually.

Bar coding on panes of stamps first requires the selvage of the stamp pane to have a certain width. Second, since the length of the barcode is at times longer than the stamp it means that the selvage on certain sides of the pane will not have to be perforated. Third, if the selvage of the pane is not to be perforated on certain sides it will mean that the pane of stamps will have to be perforated from certain directions.

b) Differences Between the Two Printings of Canadian Bank Note

The first printing by the Canadian Bank Note of the one-, five-, and ten-cent handicraft stamps occurred in early 2001 and was reported in the *Corgi Times* (March-April 2001, p. 96).

The second printing by Canadian Bank Note was reported in *Details* (Nov-Dec, 2001). Therein Canada Post states “The one-, five-, and ten-cent stamps are being reprinted and the new sheets will also include a UPC barcode. Product will be available from the National Philatelic Centre starting November 15, 2001, and from postal counters as old stock is depleted.”

The two printings are different in that the first printing of the pane has perforation that goes to the edge of the selvage on all four sides. Further, the second printing has perforation that goes to the end of the selvage on only two sides of the pane. Furthermore, the selvage at the bottom of the pane which has the barcode is slightly wider than the selvage of the pane without the barcode. This can be easily seen in the following illustration.



c) Direction of Perforation and the Type of Perforator Used

The direction in which the pane of stamps is perforated is provided by the second printing. The reason is simple. Since there are no perforations in the selvage at the top and bottom of the pane, it indicates that the pane was perforated sideways rather than top to bottom. This is because an H-comb perforator always perforates half a side of the stamp with each strike of the perforator or one full and two half sides of the stamp with each strike of the perforator in the shape of an H. Consequently, the absence of any perforation in the selvages at the top and bottom indicate that the pane was perforated sideways.

The type of perforator used by Canadian Bank Note is common knowledge, i.e., the H-comb. But is it a 1-row H-comb or is it a 2-row H-comb perforator? This is usually difficult to tell by examining a pane casually. However, if all the perforations are not completely punched out because of a broken pin or dented pin, then the periodic unpunched perforations will indicate whether it is a 1-row H-comb or a 2-row H-comb. In a sheet, purchased from the Post Office, there were consistent blind perforations after every alternative row. An illustration of this is shown hereafter, note the fourth perforation in every alternative column. This means that a 2-row H-comb perforator was used. If the blind perforations occurred after every consecutive row it would mean that a 1-row H-comb perforator was used. This means that the second printing was definitely done by a 2-row H-comb perforator. It is likely that all the low values with barcodes will be printed with this perforator.



d) Bibliography

1. *Canada Stamp Details*, Volume X, No. 4, 2001, p. 5.
2. "Canada New Issue Program 2001", *Corgi Times*, Vol. IX, No. 5, March-April 2001, p. 96.

International Reply Coupon

The new year saw the release of a re-designed International Reply Coupon (IRC) by Canada Post. The previous issue, which is dated August 1993, was recalled as of January 1, 2002. IRCs currently sell for \$3.50 each.

The new IRCs feature a larger size (14.9x10.2cm vs. 10.5x7.3cm), an illustration in the background, a UPC barcode on the front, and a unique serial number on the reverse side. The illustrations below are both 75% of the actual size — this shows the relative size difference between the two.

The lengthy number on the reverse of the new IRC consists of several parts: “CA” presumably for Canada, the printing date? (20011119), expiration date (20061231), unique serial number, and sequence (?) end code (‘AB’ in the illustrated example). This is the first time that an IRC has had an expiration date indicated on it.

The following 2-letter ending codes have been seen to date: AA, AB, AE, AH, AM, and AO. If you have an IRC with a different code we would like to hear about it.



International Reply Coupon
August 1993



International Reply Coupon
January 1, 2002

Recent Errors and Varieties

47¢ Flag over Inukshuk — Booklet of 10

This particular booklet has had many die cutting varieties reported, including both minor and major shifts (see Joseph Monteiro's article in the Sep-Oct 2001 *Corgi Times* for examples). Here is a completely *imperforate* pane:



47¢ Flag over Inukshuk: Booklet pane of 10 (Scott 1707a) — Imperforate
Courtesy Saskatoon Stamp Centre

By the way, I have heard a report that the 47¢ Flag over Inukshuk booklet of 10 also exists with the printing on the reverse side completely missing!

75¢ Grey Wolf

Here is a spectacular die cutting shift on the 75¢ Grey Wolf stamp (Scott 1880), first released on December 28, 2000 for the 2001 rate change. This is almost as dramatic a shift as you can get.



75¢ Grey Wolf (Scott 1880) — Miscut
Courtesy Saskatoon Stamp Centre

47¢ Leaf Coil Starters

The four self-adhesive coils (47¢, 60¢, 75¢, and \$1.05) issued on December 28, 2001 for the 2002 rate change to 47¢, were simply wrapped with a clear plastic film and inserted into display cards for holding on metal pegs.

Sometime in the fall of 2001 (ie. about October), a cardboard tube was placed on the inside of the roll to act as a stiffener (this practice has carried into this year's coils issued January 2, 2002). The 47¢ Leaf, and 60¢ and 75¢ Wildlife coils are known to come this way. The \$1.05 value is *not* known this way.

A new style die cutting on the coil backing paper of the 47¢ Leaf was introduced in about Nov-Dec 2001. This is in fact a *major* variety.

The initial release of the 47¢ Leaf coil had a “starter” strip which had an extended piece of backing paper. It was this backing paper that would accept the taped clear plastic cover. The last stamp in the roll was “loose”. When the inner cardboard tube was introduced, the last stamp was then attached to the tube.



47¢ Leaf (Scott 1878)
Starter Strips
Left: original; Right: modified

The last printings of the 47¢ Leaf coil had a modified starter strip, as illustrated. In addition, the end of the roll had the same type of extra tab extension — thus, there is also an “end” strip available.

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Traditional Trades Definitives

by: Robin Harris

The Traditional Trades definitive series, first introduced April 29, 1999, is shaping up to be an interesting series. The initial release of 8 values was most unassuming. The black background of each design made the stamps look rather dull. However, the latest additions to this series, the 65¢–\$1.25 medium-value Trades, issued January 2, 2002, are quite the opposite — very vibrant colours have been used. In addition, the 3 latest values have instantly added a total of NINE new varieties!

Low-values



The original set of 8 low-value water-activated stamps were printed by Ashton Potter (AP) in panes of 100. In late 2000, the Canadian Bank Note (CBN) received the contract to print these stamps. There is no discernable difference between an AP and a CBN stamp. The only difference is in the plate inscription, found in each of the four corners of the pane of 100. Five of the original 9 values have since been reprinted by CBN: the most recent being the 2¢ Decorative Ironwork (this is a *new* find, since the publication of the last *Corgi Times*).

Starting in November 2001, CBN began including a UPC barcode in either the top or the bottom selvedge of the pane. To date, the 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢ values have been reported with this variety. Although the stamps are still identical to the previous two printings, the full pane is now imperforate in both the top and bottom selvedge. Thus, a corner plate inscription block of 4 from the CBN barcode printing is *different* from the original CBN printing. Of course, if you have a single stamp that has either a top or bottom piece of selvedge that is torn on the left and right side, the stamp must come from the CBN barcode printing.

The table below includes the most recent addition to these low-value stamps:

Low-value Traditional Trades				
Panes of 100 (paper and perf gauge are the same on all printings)	Ashton Potter	Canadian Bank Note		
			Barcode in upper or lower imperforate selvedge	
1¢ Bookbinding	Apr 29/99	Dec 2000	Nov 15/01	0 63491 02048 3
2¢ Decorative Ironwork	Apr 29/99	Dec 2001	–	
3¢ Glass-blowing	Apr 29/99	–	–	
4¢ Oyster Farming	Apr 29/99	–	–	
5¢ Weaving	Apr 29/99	Feb 2001	Nov 15/01	0 63491 02049 0
9¢ Quilting	Apr 29/99	–	–	
10¢ Artistic woodworking	Apr 29/99	Mar 2001	Nov 15/01	0 63491 02050 6
25¢ Leatherworking	Apr 29/99	Nov 2001	Dec 15/01	(not seen yet)

As an aside, the original artwork for these stamps, published in Canada Post’s Mar-April 1999 *Details* magazine, included images of all 8 values. The illustration of the 10¢ value showed the inscription at the bottom of the stamp as being “Artisitic woodworking”. The issued stamps spelled this correctly as “Artistic woodworking”. No reports of stamps bearing the error of spelling have been reported.

Medium-value Coils

Three new *self-adhesive* values were added to the Traditional Trades definitive series on January 2, 2000. The 65¢ Jewelry value meets the United States first-class rate; the 77¢ Basket Weaving value meets the domestic second-step rate; and the \$1.25 Sculpture value meets the International rate.



Medium-value Traditional Trades:

65¢ Jewelry
77¢ Basket weaving
\$1.25 Sculpture

Each value was issued in rolls of 50 stamps consisting of a “starter” strip at the beginning of the roll (a 10mm extension of the backing paper) and a gutter in the centre of the roll (an extra 10mm gap between stamps 25 and 26 in the roll). The stamps are wrapped around an inner cardboard tube which acts as a stiffening agent. The end of the roll is attached to the inner tube by a spot of glue.

A clear plastic film is wrapped around the roll of stamps and taped at both ends — one end is taped (with very sticky gum!) to the starter portion of the roll of stamps. As such, removing the plastic covering usually results in a toned spot on the first stamp and starter backing paper. The entire roll is then placed into a cardboard display card. The display card contains the UPC barcode associated with each roll.



Gutter strips of 4

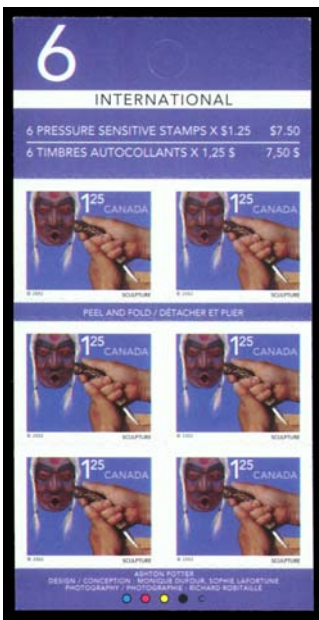
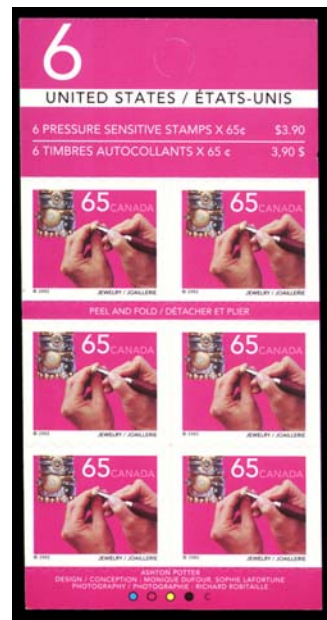


Display cards

Medium-value “Booklets”

In addition to the coils, two of the values, the 65¢ and \$1.25, were also issued in self-adhesive “booklet panes” of 6 stamps [Canada Post sometimes refers to these as *panels*]. What is interesting about these booklet stamps is that, *by design*, the background ink colour applied to the portions of the booklet surrounding the stamps *overlaps* onto the stamps! This gives *three* distinct varieties for each value:

- < ink colour on top *and* bottom die-cut perforations (two stamps from first row in pane)
- < ink colour on only the *top* die-cut perforations (two stamps from second row)
- < ink colour on only the *bottom* die-cut perforations (two stamps from third row)



\$1.25 (International-rate) booklet panel of 6

Canada Post even acknowledged these varieties on page 20 of their January to March 2002 *Details* magazine by saying: “Please be aware that on the panel of 6 International and U.S. stamps there is a variety. A minimum of colour appears on the selvage area, including the die-cut perforations of the stamp.”

“Minimum colour” is the correct term here. Depending on the exact alignment of the colour vs. the die cutting there may be more or less colour (or even *no colour* where there should be) on the stamps themselves.

Is it possible to *accurately* identify the *row* of a particular booklet variety? Under optimal alignment of the die-cutting, yes it would be. However, consider the following die-cutting shifts:



Coloured top perfs (\$1.25 bklt)

	Coloured Die-cutting on Perforation Tips			
	Top and bottom	Top only	Bottom only	Neither
“Correct” die-cutting	row 1	row 2	row 3	should <i>not</i> happen
Die-cut shifted downwards	none	none	row 1 and 3	row 2
Die-cut shifted upwards	none	row 1 and 2	none	row 3

Notice the “Neither” column — these are stamps that will have *no* hint of ink colour on either the top or the bottom die-cutting perforations due to a die-cutting shift. These stamps will *look* like stamps from the **coil**.

However, stamps from the booklet are *different* from stamps from the coil! (read on...)

™Peaks” and “Valleys”

Collectors of United States self-adhesive stamps, have, over the many years that self-adhesive stamps have been in use, developed a means of identifying *varieties* of die-cutting — *peaks* and *valleys*.

The “trick” is to look at the very first “perforation” in the upper left corner of the stamp. If the stamp is horizontally-oriented (as are Canada’s Wildlife and Trades coils and booklets), then this first perf will be on the *top* of the stamp (at the very left edge). If the stamp is vertically-oriented, then the first perf will be on the left side (at the very top of the stamp).

Is the first perforation a *peak* (ie. it protrudes outward from the stamp) or is it a *valley* (ie. it descends into the stamp)? One caveat: this applies to a correctly die-cut stamp! In the case of the stamps under discussion here, there is *always* a “flat” area between two stamps (again, under normal die-cutting).

Still having trouble determining whether a stamp starts with a peak or a valley? Here is another way to verify it:

- < a *peak* stamp will have **TEN peaks** and 9 valleys on the top edge (the bottom of the stamp will be reversed)
- < a *valley* stamp will have **TEN valleys** and nine peaks on the top edge (the bottom of the stamp will be reversed)

Why is the above important? Because...

™Coil stamps *are* different from the Booklet stamps!

It turns out that the 65¢ and \$1.25 Trades coils are *peak* stamps while the same values in booklet form are *valley* stamps. That is, they are different.

Thus, even if the die-cutting on the booklet stamps is shifted such that a row of stamps has *no* ink colour on the perforation tips (ie. looks like a coil), the stamps are still different from the coil version because of the peak/valley phenomenon!

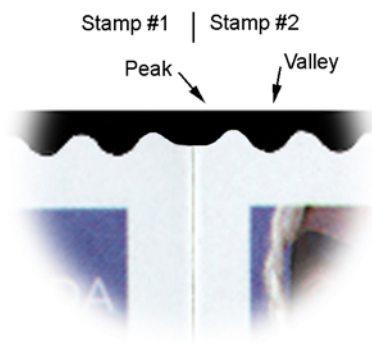
Collectors of *used* stamps, rejoice! There are **NINE** different, easily identifiable varieties produced from these three designs of medium-value Traditional Trades stamps.

Medium-value Traditional Trades				
	Peak (Coil)	Valley (from booklet)		
	No colour on perfs	Colour Perfs at top and bottom	Colour Perfs at Top only	Colour Perfs at Bottom only
65¢ Jewelry	T	T	T	T
77¢ Basket Weaving	T	(not issued in booklet format)		
\$1.25 Sculpture	T	T	T	T

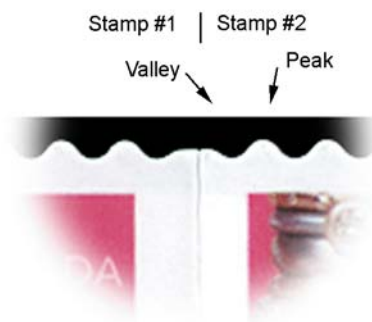


65¢ coil
starts with a peak

65¢ booklet
starts with a valley



Simulated placement of 2 coils
side by side.



2 booklet stamps side by side.

Postage Rates Rise in Canada

January 14, 2002 saw the postage rates rise in Canada. The domestic first-class rate rises a penny, from 47¢ to 48¢.

This table summarizes the basic increases:

	Domestic Lettermail		Non-standard Lettermail		Oversize	USA		International (airmail)	
Effective date	0–30g	30–50g	0–30g	30–50g	30–50g	0–30g	30–50g	0–20g	20–50g
Jan 1, 2001	47¢	75¢	60¢	86¢	94¢	60¢	85¢	\$1.05	\$1.60
								0–30g	30–50g
Jan 14, 2002	48¢	77¢	62¢	88¢	96¢	65¢	90¢	\$1.25	\$1.75



Notice that the domestic International rate vs. weight has changed slightly — in the favor of the consumer.

How do these new rates affect the mailing of *The Corgi Times*? It will cost about \$4 more per issue to mail the 110 or so journals to the membership (based on a ‘standard’ journal). A ‘standard’ *Corgi Times* consists of 16 pages (8 sheets of paper plus an envelope). This number of pages allows the bulletin to just fit into the 30–50g category — one more sheet of paper and we would be in the next weight category (this would add about \$50 to the mailing!).

A typical issue was costing us about \$85–\$90 to mail, depending on the number of mailings. The Nov/Dec journal had extra pages which put it into the next weight level — this one cost us about \$140 to mail!

48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building

The newly issued 48¢ Flag over Canada Post Building in a self-adhesive booklet of 30 stamps is interesting in a couple of respects:

- < there are *three* ‘sections’ of 10 stamps each. The entire booklet of 30 is rouletted into 3 sections, each containing 10 stamps.
- < the individual stamps have die-cutting that simulates perforations — this has not been seen before on the ‘Flag’ design (the 46¢ and 47¢ self-adhesive Flag stamps were both imperforate/straight-edged on all four sides).
- < the design is horizontal.



48¢ Flag over Canada Post building booklet of 30

Left: inside

Right: Front cover

Below: Back cover (left is philatelic/open; right is field/sealed)

